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HB 362 Disaster and Emergency Services

MNA strongly supports this bill

Disasters happen. Some are caused by weather or seismic activity or other events outside of man's control. But some are either caused by or contributed to by human acts or human inaction. This bill acknowledges that biological pathogens can be the cause of a disaster, whether naturally occurring, like influenza, or due to terrorist attack, like anthrax or smallpox.

This bill defines disaster medicine to expect the unexpected. We can't always predict the best solutions to a disaster until we are in the middle of one. Those solutions may not follow traditional standards of care. Caregivers need to be able to make tough decisions in a crisis.

There are over 10,000 nurses in Montana who are trained to provide care for victims of a disaster. Nurses are usually protected by liability and malpractice insurance. But in a disaster these policies may not apply. This bill acknowledges the responsibility of nurses to provide care and protects their good faith efforts.

Thank you for a DO PASS on 362

For any questions or concerns please contact Robert Allen, Executive Director